

MAGNOLIA COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

Monday, August 9, 2021

6:00 PM

Magnolia Fire Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Made at 6:02 pm.

Monthly Council Meeting

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Mayor James Frazier, Councilmen Ryan Clarke and Barbara Adams were present. Vice Mayor Scott Fowler and Buck Dougherty were absent. Clerk Diane Cahall, Dustan Russum; Water System Operator and Ralph Satterfield; Water assistant were present. Guests: Kevin and Cheryl Hannah of Hannah Construction. Suzanne Whitby of 25 North Main Street.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO PUBLISHED AGENDA

No changes to published agenda.

GUESTS

Mayor Frazier introduced Kevin and Cheryl Hannah who has purchased Mark Butala property (apartments) on 5 South Main. Mr. Hannah wanted councils' approval on redoing the dilapidated structure on the back of property; building two apartments on top with parking underneath. Barbara Adams questioned how the current could park and pass with the new addition. Mr. Hannah explained there would be diagonal parking for front apartments allowing room for all cars to pass and move around. James Frazier made a motion to approve the plot plan as presented for 5 South Main and Ryan Clarke seconded the motion. Motion passed.

New resident Suzanne Whitby of 26 North Main Street wanted to meet council and perhaps get involved in town government. Mayor Frazier welcomed her and ask her to please review this evening and let us know if she is interested.

COUNCIL MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Ryan Clarke made a motion to accept the minutes of the last council meeting, as provided by Secretary. James Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report was prepared and presented to members by Diane Cahall. Diane advised Council that two invoices were received in the mail today and we need to add two bills to be paid for August. Felton Hardware: \$9.03 and Southern Corrosion Inc. for \$ 6,270.00 (year 4 of our tower maintenance contract). Water bills and tax bills are arriving; the last day for discount on taxes is August 15th. Council reviewed bills to be paid and disbursements during July. Ryan Clarke made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills. Jim Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS

Dustan Russum presented the following water report: The town used 1,625,000 gallons of water during July 2021. Pump 2: 696,000 gallons. Pump 3: 929,000 gallons. Pump 2 ran 51.5 hours; Pump 3 ran 58.4 hours. Chlorine average is .5 and Fluoride .8 The town received a good PH reading on water and no lead in water samples. Greg Freimuth of Duffield notified council that the infrastructure grant meeting has been cancelled for tomorrow. Only 3 actual work days have occurred since July 13th. The next meeting will now be held on August 10th. Brian Howard of 9 S. Main complained of concrete shavings (dust) is washing asphalt down the storm drain. Ralph Satterfield explained the problem to Reybold. Dustan Russum has told Reybold several times about parking in from of well building. DelDot located a storm drain that is not hooked to anything. Ralph Satterfield has been working with Reybold daily; they have completed 200 feet so far.

Ralph Satterfield reported: Hydrant flushing was fair at the most and may stay that way during construction. Pump 2 and power blew fuses around 9:30 pm on July 27th. DPL restored line early a.m. on July 28th. We might receive a bill from Shockley Electric. Working on getting night lights around pump 2 working. I try to be available to Reybold and I am on sight 3-4 hours per day. DNREC contacted me after a complaint of wash down sewer by Reybold; they seemed satisfied after I explained situation.

CROSS CONNECTION SERVICE

Mayor Frazier addressed the Cross Connection Service (Back Flow Prevention). Dustan Russum as a video of an incident when customer caused back flow in town. The cost was 1.1 million to replace water lines.

CYBER SECURITY POLICY

We renewed our annual Cyber Security Policy at a cost of \$466.00.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Properties and Code Enforcement:** Mayor Frazier contacted Sarah Keifer of Kent County Planning to see if they can assist the town with condemning a property for trash and unhealthy conditions. Sarah said according to the Delaware Housing Code only structural problems are covered. Mayor Frazier will draft a letter to Kent County Levy Court and Sarah Keifer requesting Kent County Enforcement to address abandoned cars and trash. Mayor Frazier made a motion to adopt the Maintenance Code and Barbara Adams seconded. Motion carried. Tree of Heaven: 17 N. Main and 21 N. Main. The Dept. of Agriculture got in touch with Rebecca Campbell and they are scheduling a group visitation with Lyelle Lu Champion. Mayor Frazier offered to go with Troy on visitation. Charles Postles has no funding but encouraged the town to stay on top of problem.

- b. **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA);** ARPA: \$49,050 was deposited into the general checking account on June 16, 2021. The other half will be deposited next spring. Mayor Frazier has a digital copy of town audit good until June 2024.
- c. **Facebook:** Mayor Frazier has completed updates and will be changing the infrastructure information as warranted.
- d. **Mail /Package Deliveries:** nothing to report.
- e. **Curb Painting:** nothing to report.
- f. **Traffic Assessment (Follow up):**

Mayor Frazier advised council that we are assisting the MVFC obtain funding for a command vehicle through the Community Training Funds. Funding is coming from Postles and Bonini but cannot go directly to the fire company; it has to pass through the town financial system. The amount is \$69,700.00. The town will receive all funds back after the payment is registered and equipment is received.

Mayor Frazier received a letter from Rep. Lyndon Yearick regarding the request from town residents for one-way traffic on Thorn Street. Mayor Frazier answered the letter section by section providing detailed information on the situation:

- a. Rerouting traffic on a municipal street is a complex issue, and a solution is more involved than simply having Town Council agree to it. We will certainly consider it but not before getting input from DelDot, Kent County, our attorney and any other government agencies that might prove to be helpful.
- b. As I believe it was mentioned that night, instead of rerouting traffic, it may be more prudent to look at other elements of the street, such as speed bumps, signage, or even installation of industrial strength bollard posts at key locations.

c. Town of Magnolia is in the initial phases of a \$1.1 million water improvement project, which will run through the rest of this year and, due to scarcity of some of the project's supplies, may push into next year. With the anticipated traffic impact from that project (e.g., lane closures), I am extremely reluctant to implement any changes to traffic flow until that project winds down. That said, we can certainly attempt to investigate possible solutions during the interim.

d. By my count, there are 16 properties that touch Thorn Street at some point. That means that Town Council will need to reach out to the other 15 property owners to get their feelings on making any suggested changes. Some may agree; some may not.

Please remember that Town Council is comprised of five residents who volunteer their time to manage the Town and look at these issues and it is critical that we look at the entire issue with adequate information. Snap decisions might possibly create a scenario that's worse than the present one.

We will get back to you as info becomes available to us. If you uncover any additional information that would prove helpful, please let us know.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ryan Clarke made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm. 2nd by Jim Frazier, Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane P. Cahall